

Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS)



MISSION

Provide counterbattery fire and suppression of enemy air defenses, light materiel, and personnel targets.

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

The Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) is an artillery weapon system that supplements cannon artillery fires by delivering large volumes of firepower in a short time against critical, time-sensitive targets. The basic warhead carries improved conventional submunitions. The MLRS, however, is capable of supporting and delivering all of the MLRS family of munitions, including the Army tactical missile system weapon. Growth programs are underway to extend the range of the rocket system and to upgrade the fire control and launcher mechanical systems. The M270A1 upgrade consists of the Improved Fire Control System (IFCS) and the Improved Launcher Mechanical System (ILMS) modifications. The IFCS will mitigate electronic obsolescence and will provide growth for future weapon systems. The ILMS will provide rapid response to time-sensitive targets by reducing the aiming time by seventy percent and reducing the reload time by fifty percent. The Extended Range MLRS (ER-MLRS) Rocket will extend the current range of the basic rocket from 32 kilometers to a new range of approximately 45 kilometers.

Length: 6,832 mm

Width: 2,972 mm

Weight: 24,756 kg

Range: 483 km

Average speed: 40 kph

Max speed: 56 kph

Crew: 3

FOREIGN COUNTERPART

ABABEL (262mm, 400mm), AVIBRAS/TECTRAN (127mm, 180mm, 300mm), ORKAN M87 (262mm), LAR-60 (160mm), MAR-350 (300mm), SAKR-80 (325mm), BM-22 (220mm), 9A52 (300mm), M-1985 (240mm), M-1978 (170mm), M-1991 (240mm), WM-80 (273mm), WS-1 (320mm), RAYO (160mm).

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

Bahrain, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, The Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

PROGRAM STATUS

1983 U.S. initial operational capability for MLRS achieved.
FY89 Starting this year, MLRS has been co-produced by the United States, Germany, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom. A total of 857 launchers have been procured for the United States.

3QFY98 Initial procurement of the planned system improvement—M270A1 upgrade—occurred.

4QFY99 M270A1 program was restructured to add additional capability and to mature software prior to initial operational test and evaluation.

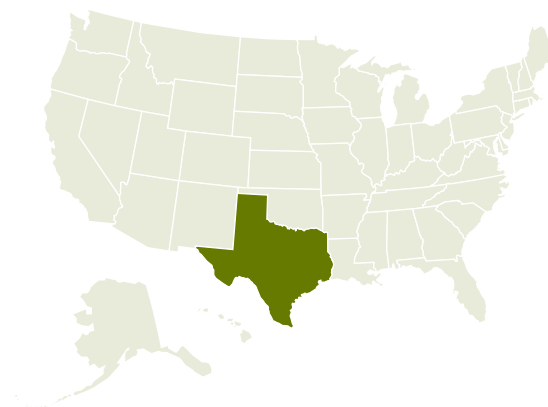
PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

3QFY01 M270A1 initial operational test.

4QFY01 M270A1 milestone III, full-rate production decision. M270A1 first unit equipped.

PRIME CONTRACTORS

Lockheed Martin (Dallas, TX)



* See appendix for list of subcontractors

